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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for February 3, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

OZGUR GUNDEM: A confession made by Abdulkadir Aygan, a former JITEM (Jandarma Intelligence Center) official, (reportedly) contributed to the uncovering of the bones of Murat Aslan, (allegedly) killed by Aygan and a group of JITEM members in 1994. (Note: this confession was reportedly made to Ozgur Gundem newspaper in March, 2004.) According to Aygan, Aslan was tortured and killed; his body was burned and then buried in the Kortuk village of Silopi in Sirnak province. In April 2004, after learning about the confession, Aslan's family discovered their son's grave in the very place Aygan has described. The family and the Diyarbakir Human Rights Association (HRA) obtained permission to exhume the grave; the Silopi Prosecutor then sent the remains for testing at the Istanbul Forensic Medicine Authority (FMA). The FMA reported that a bullet hole was found in the skull and that DNA samples taken from the bones matched Murat Aslan's father with 99.99% accuracy. Selahattin Demirtas, attorney and Chairperson of Diyarbakir's HRA, will press charges with the Silopi Prosecutor against thirty state officials that were serving at the time of Aslan's death. Sezgin Tanrikulu, Chairperson of the Diyarbakir Bar Association, called on the prosecutors to take appropriate action based on Aygan's confessions.

OZGUR GUNDEM: The families of five people killed in Sirnak province by security forces (note: in Cemilli hamlet of Kumcati on January 19, 2005) have applied to the Human Rights Association (HRA) for legal assistance in initiating prosecution. Selahattin Demirtas, Chairperson of Diyarbakir HRA, and Reyhan Yalcindag, Deputy Chairperson of HRA, filed charges with the prosecutor against the security forces involved in the incident, on the grounds that they could have caught the five people alive. (Note: Public unrest broke out after the security forces did not allow the burial in Siirt of two of the people killed in Cemilli. For details see press summary of January 25. End Note.)

OZGUR GUNDEM / RADIKAL / ZAMAN: CHP (Republican People's Party) leader Deniz Baykal's first trip, after being re-elected to his position in an extraordinary party congress, was to Hakkari. In Hakkari, Baykal accused the GoT of indifference to the problems there after the earthquake. Baykal criticized the GoT for failing to respond to the needs of Hakkari as efficiently as it did to the countries hit by the tsunami. Stating that the first issue on CHP's agenda was the earthquake in Hakkari, Baykal (reportedly) was able to draw the attention of Turkey's Parliament to Hakkari.

HURRIYET (CUKUROVA) / EKSPRES / BOLGE / VAKIT: To celebrate World Wetlands Day (February 2nd), panel discussions and meetings were held in Adana on ways to conserve the natural riches of Adana and its surroundings. Prof. Mustafa Yalinkilic, one of the speakers on the panel, pointed out that public and international awareness about the value of Yumurtalik Lagoon should be raised. New policies for using wetlands' tourism potential to, among other things, provide employment, were among the topics discussed.

BOLGE / TURKIYE / SABAH: Equipment and attached explosives (four kilograms of TNT) making up an improvised explosive device were discovered in a briefcase at a disco in the Incirlik district of Adana, located next to the Incirlik Airbase. (Note: This GoT airbase also houses the USAF 39th Wing. For post's report on the incident see Adana 0022. End note.) Employees of the disco stated they remember two women arriving with the briefcase (Note: Most accounts state a man and women left the bag, rather than two women. End note.) Later, after discovering, the bag was left in the bar, security personnel called the police. Members of Adana Security Directorate's Anti-Terror Branch and bomb squad technicians safely detonated the bomb that would have sent fragments flying had it exploded.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. [MILLIYET](#) / [HURRIYET](#) (CUKUROVA) / [EKSPRES](#): Microsoft Sales

Representative Emre Teker visited the Adana Industrialists and Businessmen Association (ADSIAD), and promised to provide technical and educational support for the association's Business Development Center (ISGEM). ISGEM's primary goal is to support

young entrepreneurs in the information technology sector.

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